

2018 AmeriCorps State Formula Funding Opportunity: Selection Criteria

March 21, 2018

Technical Assistance Webinar Series

- Funding Overview
 - Wednesday, March 14, 10-11am
- **Selection Criteria**
 - Wednesday, March 21, 10-11am
- Program Management and Design
 - Monday, March 26, 1-2pm
- Performance Measures
 - Wednesday, April 4, 10-11am
- Budget Development
 - Wednesday, April 11, 10-11am

Session Agenda

- Overview of Application Materials
- Overview of Selection Criteria
- Q & A

AmeriCorps Application

- 17 components
- Program Design Documents
 - Logic Model, Program Diagram, Program Narrative, Performance Measures, Budget
- Other Documents
 - Data Collection Plan, New Applicant Certification Form, Organizational Self-Assessment, Assurance and Certification, Financial/Audit Information

Logic Model

- Theory of Change consisting of:
 - Community Problem
 - Inputs/Resources
 - Core Activities
 - Outputs
 - Short-, Medium-, and Long-Term Outcomes

Program Diagram

- Graphic presentation of the program structure
- Includes:
 - Member supervision and staffing structure
 - All member placement site locations
 - All member slots
 - Estimated number of high-need beneficiaries served per site

Program Narrative

- 16-page limit, double-spaced and single-sided
- Executive Summary
- Program Design
- Organizational Capability
- Cost Effectiveness and Budget Adequacy
 - No narrative component, score based on budget

Performance Measures

- Primary Needs and Service
- Common Member Development
- Common Strengthening Communities
- Other Non-Primary Needs and Service or Indirect Service Activities

National Performance Measures

- Encouraged but not required
- See Instructions for:
 - Selection rules that specify required output/outcome pairings.
 - Definitions for the intervention, target population, output and outcome
 - How to calculate, measure, and collect data

Budget Narrative & Budget Form

- Cost Effectiveness & Budget Adequacy score based on these documents
- Include program costs, not general organization expenses
- Cost per MSY at or below limit
- Identify all match sources, amounts, and if match is “secured” or “proposed”

Data Collection Plan

- 10,000-character narrative including:
 - Description of data collection system and its sufficiency, or a plan for developing such a system
 - Description of how performance data will be used to improve the program

Other Components

- Title Page & Partnership Forms
- Strategic Grant Characteristics
- Labor Organization Certification Form
- New Applicant Certification Form
- Organizational Self-Assessment
- Financial/Audit Information
- Moderate/Strong Evidence Supporting Documents
- Federally Approved Indirect cost Rate
- Request for Alternative Match Schedule

Selection Criteria

- Program Design (50%)
 - Program Narrative
 - Logic Model
 - Performance Measurement Worksheets
- Organizational Capacity (25%)
 - Program Narrative
- Cost Effectiveness & Budget Adequacy (25%)
 - Budget Narrative & Budget Form

Program Design

- Need (4%)
- Theory of Change and Logic Model (24%)
- Evidence Base (12%)
- Funding Priority (3%)
- Member Training (4%)
- Member Experience (3%)

Evidence Base Criteria

- Evidence Tier
- Evidence Quality and Evaluation Capacity

Evidence Tier

- No Evidence, Pre-Preliminary, Preliminary, Moderate, or Strong
- Tier assessment determines point distribution

Evidence Quality and Evaluation Capacity

| Evidence Quality and Evaluation Capacity Standards | No Evidence & Pre-Preliminary Points | Preliminary Points | Moderate & Strong Points |
|---|--------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|
| The applicant's evidence is of satisfactory quality. Applicants with no evidence describe an evidence-informed theory of change. | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| The applicant's data collection systems are sufficient to yield high quality process and outcome data. | 5 | 4 | 1 |
| The applicant demonstrates adequate capacity to use process and outcome data including performance measurement (and evaluation data if applicable) to inform continuous learning and program improvement. | 5 | 5 | 5 |
| The applicant's long-term research agenda is aligned to the organization's learning needs and position on the evidence continuum (evidence tier). | 0 | 1 | 4 |

Selecting an Evidence Tier

- State the evidence tier in which you think you qualify
- Clearly indicate and describe the evidence that supports the highest evidence tier for which you are eligible
- Describe the complete body of evidence that supports your program intervention including evidence from lower tiers

Evidence Tier Assessment

- All requirements must be met in order for applicants to be assigned to a tier
- All applicants who have collected relevant performance measurement data must describe this data fully
- Applicants who have conducted evaluations of their own program or that are replicating other evidence-based programs must describe them

Citing Studies or Evaluations

- Include the following to earn points:
 - The date research/evaluation was completed, and the time period for which the intervention was examined
 - Describe relevance to the proposed intervention
 - Describe target population studied
 - The study methodology
 - Describe data, data source, and data collection methods
 - The outcomes or impacts examined and study findings
 - The strength of findings

Assessing Studies or Evaluations

- Any studies or evaluations will be assessed on the following criteria:
 - How closely the intervention evaluated in the studies matches the one proposed by the applicant
 - The methodological quality and rigor of the studies presented
 - Strength and consistency of the findings, with preference given to findings that show a meaningful and persistent positive effect on participants demonstrated with confidence levels
 - The date of the study, with preference towards studies that have been conducted within the last six years

Organizational Capability

- Organizational Background and Staffing (7%)
- Compliance and Accountability (8%)
- Culture that Values Learning (5%)
- Member Supervision (5%)

Cost Effectiveness & Budget Adequacy

Based on Budget Narrative & Budget Form

- Submitted without mathematical errors
- Costs are allowable, reasonable, and allocable
- Calculations are clear
- Budget is compliant
- Match is adequate
- Cost per MSY equal to or less than maximum

Application Deadlines

- Notice of Intent due April 2
 - <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2018FormulaNOI>
- Complete Application due May 2
 - Paper application including one original (items 1-17) & 5 copies (1-9)
 - Electronic submission of AmeriCorps Program Title Page & Partnership Forms
 - <https://govapps.gov.ca.gov/cvrfa/>

Questions?

Thank you!

Send questions to funding@cv.ca.gov

Or request one-on-one technical assistance